GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1389
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
POLICY TO POPULARISE NATIONAL GAMES
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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy to promote/popularise national games like Hockey, Football, Volleyball, Wrestling and Athletics etc. in the wake of their negligence ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is taking any concrete steps to create required infrastructure to promote and develop such games/sporting events ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of funds allocated alongwith the expenditure borne by the Government on sports persons trained during the last two years till date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYAT RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a)&(b) : Under the existing schemes there is adequate provision for promoting disciplines like Hockey, Football, Volleyball, Wrestling and Athletics and other major disciplines by significantly supplementing the efforts of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned through the 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to National Sports Federations' for organizing national and international tournaments in India, participation of Indian teams in tournaments and events abroad,provision of coaching through Indian and foreign coaches,backed-up with requisite technical support, procurement of equipments etc., within Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for each discipline.

The Ministry is also providing support to talented and elite sportspersons in various disciplines for further improving in their performance through the Schemes of Talent Search and Training and the National Sports Development Fund.

Further, keeping in view the popularity and grassroot appeal of various disciplines SAI, also operates various schemes at sub-junior, junior and senior level, for scouting and nurturing talent and training the identified sportspersons by providing vital inputs i.e. coaching, equipment support, sports kit and competition exposure etc. under the following schemes :

(i) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme ;

(ii) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme ;

(iii)SAI Training Centres (STC) Scheme ;

(iv) Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme; and

(v) Centre for Excellence Scheme. As a result of efforts of SAI, the number of trainees in their Centres has increased from less than 10,000 at the beginning of the Xth Plan to around 13,000 by the end of the Plan.The sportspersons in the age-group 8-25 years are trained in the SAI centres through out the country in 27 disciplines other than Hockey (50 centres),Football (61 centres), Volleyball (48 centres), Wrestling (29 centres) and Athletics (93 centres).

(c)&(d): Action is being taken under various schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to establish state-of-the-art training infrastructure and facilities in different parts of the country, including in areas with special potential for different identified sports disciplines. These include laying of hockey astro turf in 10 centres and synthetic tracks for athletics in 9 centres. At present SAI has 230 centres spread all over the country.

The Ministry have also put up a draft comprehensive National Sports Policy which may please be seen on the Ministry's web-site.

Further with a view to broad-basing sports and creating avenues to provide access for the vast sections of the youth, particularly in the rural areas, to organized sports and games facilities, the Ministry is also considering the launching of a Scheme titled "Panchayat

Yuva Khel Avam Krida Abhiyan" (PYKKA) during XI Plan.

(e) The details of expenditure incurred on the training of sportspersons under various schemes of the Ministry during the last 2 years and in the current financial year till date are as under:

Name of the Scheme-	Rupees in lakhs Expenditure Incurred during 2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 till 15th August,2007
Scheme for Assistance to National Sports Federations	3866.92	3222.66	2116.90
Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training	50.00	280.00	200.00
National Sports Development Fund	48.14	96.10	57.80
SAI schemes Allocated in 2007-08	15868.00	13676.00	18300.00